scaly cuticle. It is also noteworthy that not even the winter-coat of a horse in Scandinavia approaches in denseness that of the supposed *Onohippidium*; while there are other differences more easily seen than described.

Taking all circumstances into consideration, I think we must return to the above suggested theory, that the specimen now under discussion is a piece of skin of an *Onohippidium*. If that be correct, it is of course very interesting to have a fragment of the soft parts of a second animal, long ago extinct, from the Cueva Eberhardt.

The detailed statements of Erland Nordenskjöld as to the extreme dryness of those parts of the cave where these remains were found, and the protecting layer of sulphate of magnesia, give a plausible explanation of the organic substances (even flesh on some bones) having been so excellently preserved for such a considerable time. I may add that Professor Lagerheim has also made attempts to find bacteria in the fæcal material, but failed to discover any [1].

3. On a remarkable Attid Spider from Borneo, *Mantisatta trucidans*, n. g. et sp. By Cecil Warburton, M.A., Christ's College, Cambridge.

[Received March 31, 1900.]

By the courtesy of Dr. Sharp I am able to describe a very interesting new Spider found in a collection of insects, chiefly Termites, made by Dr. G. D. Haviland in Sarawak, Borneo. The Spider was overlooked on first going over the collection, and unfortunately no note was made of the particular insects with which it was associated, and nothing is certainly known with regard to its habits.

Fam. Attidæ.

Subfam. Lyssomanæ.

Genus Mantisatta, n. gen.

Body elongated and depressed. Eyes arranged as in *Lyssomanes*. Spinnerets *beneath* the posterior end of the abdomen, which is produced beyond them into a caudal process. Legs of the first pair much the most strongly developed, with strong forwardly directed spines under the tibia and *backwardly* directed spines

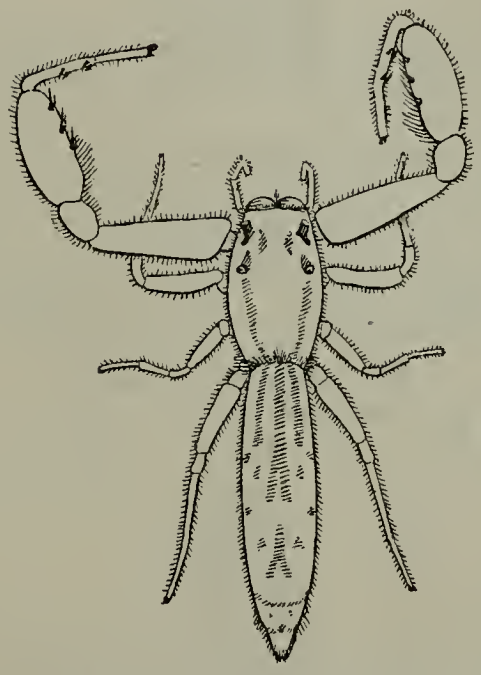
[1] After the reading of this paper, Dr. W. G. Ridewood remarked that he had examined the microscopic structure of the hair of the two equine hoofs found in association with *Grypotherium* by the La Plata Museum expedition. He had observed in the hairs attached to these hoofs the tapering of the hair at each end, the scaly cuticle, and the excentric position of the relatively large medulla, which had been described as characterizing the hair of the problematical skin found by E. Nordenskjöld.

under the metatarsus, forming a prehensile weapon when these joints are apposed.

MANTISATTA TRUCIDANS, n. sp. (Fig. 1.)

Female. Total length 4 mm.; length of thorax $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm.; length of abdomen $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm. Greatest breadth of thorax (about the level of the second pair of legs) about 1 mm.; of the abdomen about ·75 mm.

Fig. 1.



Mantisatta trucidans, ♀, much enlarged.

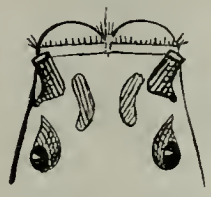
The cephalothorax is much depressed and is about half as long again as broad. The first pair of eyes are very large, occupying the whole breadth of the facies, and are mounted on short cylinders which project forward. The second and third pairs of eyes are on confluent dark-coloured eminences. The second eyes, which are pale-coloured, are about a quarter of the anterior eyes in diameter. The third eyes are very small and black. The fourth pair of eyes, somewhat farther behind the third pair than these are behind the second, are dark and moderately large, their diameter being about one third of that of the anterior eyes. The whole ocular area (fig. 2, p. 386) forms almost an exact square.

The abdomen is a depressed cylinder, more than three times as long as broad. The spinnerets are not visible from above, being hidden by a caudal process (fig. 3, p. 386).

The anterior legs are about as long as the whole animal, the femora, patellæ, and tibiæ being very strongly developed, and giving

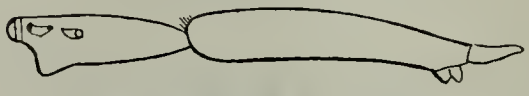
the Spider a chelifer-like appearance. Beneath each tibia, towards its distal end, are three pairs of strong black spines, directed forward. The metatarsus, which can be closed upon the tibia, bears two pairs of shorter black spines directed backward. One pair is beneath the middle of the joint, and the other near its distal extremity.

Fig. 2.



Ocular area of *Mantisatta trucidans*.

Fig. 3.



Mantisatta trucidans in profile.

Fig 4.

Under surface of anterior part of *Mantisatta trucidans*, with enlarged view of epigyne.

The other legs (4, 2, 3) are small and weak, and do not appear to be adapted for leaping.

The whole Spider is exceedingly pale—almost white—in colour, at all events as it appears after immersion in spirit. Dorsally it is variegated by a pattern marked out in faint dusky lines and dots. On the cephalothorax there are two dark patches between the third pair of eyes, and the second, third, and fourth pairs of eyes are on

black eminences. Behind the fourth pair commence two faint dusky lines, which converge slightly as they approach the abdomen, along which they are continued for nearly a third of its length. Along the first half of the abdomen there is a median line, forking posteriorly. This is succeeded by a shorter line which forks similarly, and behind this there is a transverse line. On each side of the central marking there are a series of dots, the distribution of which is shown in fig. 1. The body is thinly pubescent. The under surface of the body is whitish except the small yellow-brown epigyne (fig. 4).

The legs are similar in colour, and, except for the spines on the tibiæ and metatarsi of the first pair, are furnished only with a thin clothing of hairs. All exhibit black scopulæ on the tarsi.

Male unknown.

A single adult female was found among a collection of insects made by Dr. G. D. Haviland in Sarawak. Nothing is known of its habits, but from the nature of the collection it is probable that it was found inside a termites' nest. Its structure would suggest that it does not pounce upon its prey in the usual Attid fashion, but that it remains still and seizes passing insects with its predaceous front legs.

4. On Geographical and Individual Variation in *Mus sylvaticus* and its Allies. By G. E. H. Barrett-Hamilton, F.Z.S.

[Received March 2, 1900.]

(Plate XXV.)

This paper contains some account of the various local forms or subspecies of the Long-tailed Field-mouse, which can be recognized from the material at present available in the collections of the British Museum of Natural History.

The accusation has sometimes been brought against certain recent workers on Mammals that their papers are "scrappy." I fear that those who lightly make such assertions can have but little idea how insignificant is our present knowledge of the local variations of Old World mammals, and how numerous are the new facts constantly being brought before us with the consequent need for their permanent record. Even in the case of one of our commonest mammals, such as that here under consideration, a careful study of material, which is probably both greater in quantity and better in quality than that which has come before any other writer, chiefly impresses one by its inadequacy to afford the basis of anything like a full account of the variations of the animal even in such a small area as that of the British Isles.

It is a curious sign of the times that in this country, at all events, the naturalist who wishes to give some account of the local variations or subspecies of any particular mammal must commence